(d) to (f). Reports have appeared in the newspapers regarding an announcement in reduction of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service rates by one company which has been licensed to operate the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in three Territorial Telecom Circles. The details of the reported announcement are being sought from the company.

STATEMENT

Ceiling Tariffs for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service:

1. Monthly Rental for the Service — Rs. 156/-per month
2. Security Deposit — Rs. 3000/-
3. Installation Charges — Rs. 1200/-
4. *Call Charges :*

4.1 *For calls originated by the Mobile Subscriber :* Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed network for Local, STD and ISD calls. For mobile to mobile calls within the same Cellular Service area, only air time charges will be levied.

4.2 *For calls terminating on the Mobile Subscriber :* Air time charge @ 10 seconds per unit call will be levied. No charge will be levied to the mobile subscriber if the mobile subscriber terminates an incoming call within 5 seconds.

5. *Notes on tariff :*

5.1 Call duration will be on air time basis for mobile subscribers.

5.2 The air time unit call shall be charged at unit rate applicable to the highest slab of the DOT's fixed net work (Rs. 1.40 per unit at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no telescopic rates.

5.3 Call charges for the air time during peak hours shall be fixed at rates not exceeding double the rates prescribed in para 4 above. Peak hours shall be restricted upto a maximum of 4 hours per day. Peak hours and air time call charges during peak hours may be fixed by the Licensee in consultation with Telecom Authority.

5.4 Call charges for the air time during Sundays and 3 National holidays (15th August, 26 January & 2nd October) shall be half the rates prescribed in para 4 above.

5.5 For calls from mobile subscriber to the fixed net work, the Licensee shall charge the mobile subscriber at the rates perscribed by the Telecom Authority according to time and day of the call. Unit rate for such calls shall be the highest slab rate of the DOT's fixed network (Rs. 1.40 at present). The unit rate shall be applied as above for all calls and there are no Telescopic rates.

5.6 There are no free calls to be given in the air time.

5.7 For calls originating from the fixed network to mobile, the mobile subscriber will be charged for the air time and DOT will not have to pay any access fee to the Cellular Operator. The air time charges will be collected by the Cellular Operator.

5.8 For mobile to mobile both caller and called party will be charged.

6. All tariff increase shall be subject to prior approval of the Telecom Authority and/or its successor.

7. The rental does not include the cost of the Subscriber's terminal equipment (mobile handset). The subscriber is free to buy the terminal equipment from any source

Cases against Chairman, VSNL

3369. SHRI BACHI SIGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of cases filed in the Court of Law by the SC/ST Employees Association and SC/ST employees of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and their wards against the Chairman, VSNL under SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 during the last three years;

(b) the circumstances which compelled them to file such cases to seek justice through court of law; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against the Chairman, VSNL in view of the ongoing court cases and large scale harassment to SC/ST employees by the Chairman after filing such cases?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There are no cases filed by SC/ST Employees Association and SC/ST employees of VSNL and their wards against the Chairman, VSNL under SCs/STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 during the last three years.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Vacant Posts

3370. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: